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**HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED BY U.S. FOR EMBEZZLING \$6 MILLION;
PAIR APPREHENDED AFTER SIX-MONTH FLIGHT FROM JUSTICE**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that WENDIE LAURIOLA and SALVATORE LAURIOLA were sentenced in Manhattan federal court today to terms of imprisonment of 54 months and 44 months, respectively, for embezzling approximately \$6 million from WENDIE LAURIOLA's employer over a 10-year period. The LAURIOLAS were also ordered to pay more than \$6.1 million in restitution to the victim of the offense.

The LAURIOLAS were sentenced by United States District Judge RICHARD J. HOWELL, before whom they pled guilty to bank fraud charges on May 18, 2004.

According to the LAURIOLAS' guilty plea allocutions, between 1994 and May 2003, WENDIE LAURIOLA embezzled money from her employer, the owner of Troon Management, a New York real estate management firm, by forging signatures on her employer's bank accounts. SALVATORE LAURIOLA deposited some of these checks into accounts under his control.

In June 2003, a Magistrate Judge had issued warrants for the arrest of WENDIE LAURIOLA and SALVATORE LAURIOLA. According to court proceedings, the LAURIOLAS fled the country in June 2003 to avoid apprehension and relocated to Costa Rica. According to court proceedings, the LAURIOLAS were detained on January 5, 2004, as they crossed into Arizona from Mexico. They have been in custody since that date.

Prior to their flight, WENDIE LAUREOLA and SALVATORE LAURIOLA, both 55, resided in New Rochelle, New York.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which conducted the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney ANDREW L. FISH is in charge of the prosecution.

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